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essentially as in *Anthoceros*, but broader and shorter and still more heteromorphous. Like the spores, they are developed in a delicate globular utriculus, which contains from one to four of them, and which disappears upon their arriving at maturity. They usually separate at maturity, but may occasionally be seen adhering together, or even closely adhering to the spores. They appear to about equal the spores in number, and nearly in size, and are of a yellowish brown color, hyaline, much compressed and angular, and of a great variety of odd shapes,—usually oblongish but often (when borne singly) nearly or quite as broad as long. They are frequently variously marked (within) by faint lines or *fibres*, which are sometimes reticulated, sometimes spiral and sometimes annular, but often irregularly tortuous. The coloring matter is mostly collected into the fibres and angles, the latter of which are obtusish and obscurely thickened.

Spores at first in 4s *(utriculi matricales seminum quadrispermi!)*, at length mostly separating, roundish, flattish, obscurely angled, and nearly smooth. Antheridia very large, composed of large inflated convex cellules, usually borne singly in deep pits in the upper surface of the frond, which are surrounded by a jagged margin.

Rootlets smooth or minutely granulose (within).

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17. **February Meeting.**—At the meeting of the Torrey Botanical Club held February 27, 1872, Prof. John Torrey in the chair, Dr. Parry laid before the meeting two rare plants from Oregon, collected by E. Hall—*Coptis aspleniifolia*, Salisb., figured in Hooker's Flora Boreali-Americana, and a new species of *Isopyrum*, named *Hallii* by Dr. Gray after the discoverer. This last would be a very desirable addition to the garden, being quite ornamental in foliage and flower, and an early bloomer.

Mr. Leggett presented to the College Herbarium a specimen with cone of a new species of pine—*Pinus Elliottii*, Engelm.—from South Carolina, sent by H. W. Ravenel, Esq.

Also were shown the following new books belonging to the Herbarium Library :

Flora of the Galapagos Archipelago. J. D. Hooker.

Internationales Wörterbuch der Pflanzennamen. W. Ulrich.

Geschichte und Litteratur der Lichenologie. A. von Kumpelhuber.

Die Vegetation der Erde. A. Grisebach.

Sertum Tianschanicum. Baron Fr. v. d. Osten-Sacken und F. J. Ruprecht.

Wonders of Vegetation. Translated by Prof. Schele de Vere.

Botanische Theil ; Fungi, Hepaticæ and Musci ; Voyage of the Frigate Novara around the World. H. W. Reichardt.

Sketches of the Botany of Pennsylvania. By Prof. Thos. C. Porter, Easton, Pa.

Members present, sixteen, viz. : Messrs. Torrey, Paine, Wilber, Hogg, Ruger, Leggett, Hall, Merriam, Wood, Parker, C. B. Gerard, McIntyre, Hyatt, Gross, Parry, Le Roy. P. V. Le Roy, *Sec.*

18. **Wood's Plant Press.**—The method of drying botanical specimens

heretofore generally practised, a method more particularly described in the November and December Bulletins, is tedious and burdensome. Few, we think, will deny this. The collector who attempts to keep up with the season of flowers must have in use an immense quantity of paper—must rearrange specimens and paper at least twice a day—must thoroughly dry the sheets separately daily—all this besides the collecting makes botany a *business* rather than a recreation, and leaves too little time for study or any other duty.

It is the drying-press which is in fault—that old-fashioned press used by botanists from Linnæus down. True, it has done good service, and so has the sewing-needle. Shall the sewing-*machine* be rejected on this account? If the intolerable drudgery of plant-drying by *absorption* can be obviated by an invention, why not try it? Wood's *wire-press*, described in the "Botanist and Florist," p. 10, and "Class-Book," p. 15, is such an invention, unpatented, free to all collectors. It dries by *evaporation* rather than absorption, and thus makes available all the sources of heat, whether natural or artificial. It requires comparatively but little paper—less than half the amount needed in the old process; hence it is portable, and serves the double purpose of portfolio and press. It requires no changing of specimens and papers, no drying of damp and mildewed sheets.

In fair weather the wire press dries in the wind and sunshine; in foul weather, by the fire. In either case, after one or two days the specimens will be found thoroughly cured, and as bright in colors as is possible by any other known method.

To the travelling collector this form of press is invaluable. With it so light is his labor in drying his specimens that it occasions him little if any delay, and so light his luggage that a single donkey will suffice him in lieu of half a dozen for its transportation. With this simple press the writer, during a single year, cured more than three thousand specimens, in a protracted journey of about fifteen hundred miles. A. W.

19. **Drop-Bottle.** *See the Figure in the last No.*—I have the jet, C, turned obliquely upwards; the air-tube, A, turned downwards; and at the other end of the jet, D, a small bell made in the tube to hold a wisp of cotton for a much needed *strainer.* D. C. E.

20. **Marsilia quadrifolia, L.**—I have from Florida a Marsilia so labelled, but it is more likely to be one of the western species, *M. uncinata*, Braun, for instance. D. C. E.

21. **Euphorbia Helioscopia, L.**—Abounds near the river bank, and farther back across the river, opposite to the Main Street dock, Poughkeepsie. I have never seen it nearer to New York City.
Jas. Hyatt.

22. **Cryptogamic Publications.**—We have received *The Erysiphei of the United States*, by M. C. Cooke, M.A., and C. H. Peck, reprinted from the Journal of Botany, for January, 1872.—Also a prospectus of *Grevillea, a Monthly Record of Cryptogamic Botany, with Illustrations,*

from Mosses downwards, " somewhat like Hedwigia." 5 shillings sterling, post free. Address M. C. Cooke, 2, Grosvenor Villas, Junction Road, London, N.

23. Quercus and Salix.—After reading De Candolle's experience in determining the species of Quercus, one with more limited means of comparison may well hesitate before pronouncing positively. The stable distinctions necessary for classification are not always to be found, though the conviction remains that such distinctions must exist The scientific study of the variations of specific forms is one of the most pressing needs of Biology. We shall welcome any observations tending in this direction. The opening season will soon afford an opportunity for a study of the Willows of our district, about which we are quite unfurnished with data. We invite those of our friends who have the opportunity to study this family to communicate the results to us, and specimens to the Club Herbarium.

Of *Quercus bicolor*, Willd., Mr. Austin writes that it is "most nearly related to *Q. macrocarpa*, Mchx. The acorns are perfectly similar in both, and unlike in some respects those of any other species : a true *White Oak.*" Of *Q. prinus*, L. : "I have never been able to see wherein the var. *monticola* differs from this." Messrs. Austin and Allen both express a decided conviction that *Q. tinctoria* is a very distinct species. That Oaks may hybridize, we have received from Dr. Engelmann a remarkable example in a specimen labelled "*Quercus palustris-imbricaria, hybris*, near St. Louis, single tree, May, 1870."—We had supposed the Chestnut Oak, *Q. prinus*, var. *acuminata*, to be one of our most common Oaks, but finding no specimen from this region in our possession, we referred to the State Flora, where Chemung Co. is the only locality given. We have found it in Connecticut, and Gray's Manual says it is common in the Middle States.

BROUSSONETIA, Vent.—**B. Papyrifera**, Vent. ; Laurel Hill, L. I., *Ruger ;* fruits finely in Greenwood Cemetery, *W. H. L. ;* frequent in cultivation or springing up from suckers.

URTICA, Tourn.—**U. Gracilis**, Ait. ; common ; N. Y.—**U. dioica**, L. ; not rare about roadsides ; N. Y. ; Staten Island ; Bergen Hill ; Train's Meadow, etc., *Ruger ;* Glen Cove, *Coles.*

LAPORTEA, Gaudichaud.—**L. Canadensis**, Gaud. ; common ; N. Y. ; Fort Washington, *W. H. L.*

PILEA, Lindl.—**P. pumila**, Gray ; very common ; N. Y.

BOEHMERIA, Jack.—**B. cylindrica**, Willd. ; "In shady swamps, Bloomingdale and Weehawken," *Torr. Cat.*, Central Park, *R. & P.* ; Closter, common, *Austin ;* rather common on L. I. ; the var. **B. lateriflora**, by Bedford Creek, *Ruger.*

Terms—One dollar for one copy ; five dollars for seven ; and half a dollar for every additional copy, per annum.

Local Herbarium, 3, E. 33d St.—Editor, 224, E. 10th St.

The Club meets regularly the last Tuesday of the month in the Herbarium, Columbia College, at 7½ P.M.